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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

### Inspection Report

#### Minerals Regulatory Program

July 28, 2016

Reviewed:

<b>Mine Name:</b> ML 50053	<b>Permit Number:</b> S/027/0123
<b>Operator Name:</b> Ben Wilcken	<b>Inspection Date:</b> July 19, 2016
<b>Inspector(s):</b> Peter Brinton	<b>Time:</b> mid-day
<b>Other Participants:</b> none	<b>Mine Status:</b> Reclaimed

#### Elements of Inspection

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control
4. Deleterious Material
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)
6. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)
7. Soils
8. Revegetation
9. Other

Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
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**Permit fee:**

**Bond Renewal Date:**

**Bond Amount:**

**Inspection Purpose:** Evaluate reclamation for a possible partial bond release

**Inspection Summary:** Regrading associated with this permit was satisfactorily completed, with the exception a small hole (up to 8 feet deep) at the current backhoe location (upstream of the stock pond). Also, one disturbance area is becoming a road that parallels the original road, with an island of sagebrush in between them. The hole must be backfilled, and the new path access removed using a berm of rock and/or downed trees or heavy vegetation. A few pieces of trash remain, and need to be removed. Mr. Wilcken left his trackhoe onsite so that I could notify him of any additional requirements, of which I have notified him by phone. Other small and active mining areas (mostly downstream) are not associated with this permit, and do not require a permit, unless excavation equipment is used.

Beneficial volunteer and weedy vegetation was starting to grow, including a few thistle rosettes which I removed, since their species was unclear. Cheatgrass is present in surrounding areas. Given the relatively good precipitation at this elevation (~7800 ft), cheatgrass shouldn't dominate if the site is appropriately seeded and roughened this fall. Photos were taken to document site conditions.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations:

Considering the regrading and clean-up work done to date, it is recommended that a partial release of reclamation surety be granted, with adequate revegetation bond retained. Soil roughening and seeding should occur this fall.

**Inspector's Signature**

PNB: pbb

cc: Ben Wilcken, operator; 5410 N. Minersville Rd, Cedar City, Utah 84721

Jerry Mansfield, SITLA (ML-50053); jmansfield@utah.gov

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Existing stock pond. Some work has been done by Mr. Wilcken to improve this pond.



Operations area during active operations.



Operations area after regrading. Note the hole below the backhoe and wood.



Upper pond during active operations.



Upper pond after regrading.



Remaining pit to backfill before regrading will be complete.



Two of a handful of thistle rosettes observed and removed.



Two roads, one of which still needs to be bermed.